3/25/77

Dear J.B.Stoner,

Enclosed is a copy of the Washington Star story of which we spoke. As yet I have not received a copy of the New Times article itself. When I do I'll send you a copy.

Other developments have been reported to me.

Not by Jerry, who has allen silent since his conferences with the Perry Mason of Brushy Mountain. I rather suspect Jimmy has told him not to be in touch with me. When he never learns and never pays attention that will not bother me. It is frustrating to waste so much time with him.

You are now associated with what Jerry calls The Honorable Mark Lane.

The Honorable said so himself earlier this week in a shouting match that was supposed to have been a talk show on a minor New York radio station.

I've been told there were six of them, some or all by conference-call phone. The names I have are Lane, Cohen and Anson, one of the editors of New Times and an accredited literary whore.

There is irony in Lane announcing that he is Jerry's lawyer and that he is suing over the Lifton-Cohen story. Lane has to with a book coming out. He has no interest in Jerry. As Jerry and Jimmy will learn. His way is to use people until they are without further use and then to abandon them. What Lifton and Cohen have done gives Lane no alternative with his book now due in May. I suspect it was delayed to correct some of its errors, most likely relating to the committee.

When Lane saw as his last ripe fruit the possibilities of the King assassination he had the west-cost branch of his rippoff associates send Cohen east to brief him on Les Payne's stories and little else and Lane was off and running. Really as a running dog of the FBI, which is not hurt but help by baseless criticisms.

I'm sorry about what the Rays are doing to themselves but I can't do anything to stop them. I've tried, taking much time in the effort.

Worst of all has been Kershaw's mistake. He has let Jimmy use himself to support the committee that as of this week had refused to read the briefs of either side in the habeas corpus and evidentiary hearing, the committee of the prejudgement that Jimmy did the killing. This and the stunt they pulled with Trafficante may have gotten the committee extended. It will require very much to get them to admit they were wrong and not to assume Jimmy's guilt. I think the odds are against this kind of change. So once again Jimmy has done himself in. Jerry is stomping on Jimmy and on himself without realizing it. The doctrine of Lane's book, unless it has been changed, is what Cohen and Lagin tried out on you, what you saw in Freed's writing I sent you.

When I got in touch with you it was with the hope that you might influence them against self-destruction. Now I wonder if anyone could have.

These two talk themselves into anything to justify whatever course they decide on, more when they have reason to see their foolhardiness. When Jerry came up with the weird notion my interest was in prying into his private life I told him not to send me a release so I could get the FBI files on him. Not only do I have no interest in his personal life I'd rather not take all that extra time. When I tried to warn Jimmy against Freed and Lane he actually said I'm out for my own quid pro quo. The reality is as you can see from the paper I use. I even reuse the envelopes of others to save that cost and be able to make out. It is not so much that these silly things are offensive. It is that they are self-destructive.

It would be helpful, if your people receive publications that report the news, to have what stories appear on the committee and on Lane and Freed et al. The promotions for Lane's book have begun. I have received no more copies of Freed's appearance in The Black Panther. Also, I think it would now be helpful if you would reconsider the New Orleans matter because Jerry is misusing it in public. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg